(c) and (d) The information is being collected from the State Governments and UT Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Commission for Safai Mazdoor

@@3245. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a National Commission for Safai Karamcharies; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are being worked out.

Facilities to Elderly Persons

3246. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that no proper welfare services are available for the elderly persons in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the existing facilities; and

(c) whether Government propose to prepare an effective scheme of welfare services for the elderly persons ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Welfare has under the Eighth Plan, started a new scheme called 'Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for programmes Relating to Aged'. The scheme aims at encouraging voluntary organisations to provide facilities of old age homes, day-care centres, medicare and non-institutional services for the aged.

@@Previously unstarred Question 2073 Transferred from 11-3-93.

Stone Age Tribes

3247. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the States and Union Territories where stone age tribes are still existing in the country;

(b) what is their population, tribe-wise and area-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the population of these tribes is declining year by year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to protect this ancient tribal population ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) The Mniistry is not aware of the names of the tribes of stone age. But this Ministry have identified 74 Primitive Tribal Groups who are characterised by pre-agricultural level of technology and extremely low level of literacy. The list of those Primitive Tribal Groups identified is laid on the Table of the House as statement (*see* below).

(c) to (e) A statement indicating the decline of Scheduled Tribe population in 1981 Census in relation to 1971 Census is laid on the Table of the House. (Annexure-II). According to Registrar General of India the decline of population is due to physiological effect of inbreeding, infant mortality, malnutrition, migration of some groups to other areas where the Tribes in question have not been declared as Scheduled Tribe, and wrong enumeration. Various development programmes are being implemented for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes.